

To

The CHAIRMAN and MEMBERS of the CREDITON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1942.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for the year 1942. The Report has been drawn up as briefly as possible, in accordance with instructions from the Ministry of Health that essential statistics only be given.

No progress has been made with Housing, Water and Sewerage Schemes owing to the War.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area - 93,370 acres.

Estimated population,	9,500	in 1942	(excluding evacuees)
"	"	9,358	in 1939
"	"	10,081	in 1931.

Number of Inhabited Houses, 2970.

Rateable Value, £26,763. Product of 1d. Rate - £125. 1.11.

District - Agricultural.

1 Milk Factory, 1 small Manure Factory, 1 small Fruit Pulping Factory.

Live Births:- Legitimate; Males 68, Females 52, Total 120.
 Illegitimate; Males 3, Females 1, Total 4.

Rate per 1,000 estimated population, 13.05.

Deaths:- Males 44, Females 49, Total 93.

Rate per 1,000 population,	9.8	in 1942.
"	9.2	in 1939.

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis - 0.

Deaths from other Puerperal Causes - 0.

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age:-	Legitimate, 3.
"	Illegitimate, 0.

Deaths from Cancer, 12.

" " Measles, 0.

" " Whooping Cough, 0.

" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age), 0.

" " Pneumonia, 3.

" " Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 4.

/ GENERAL

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.Staff of the Health Department.Officers.

Medical Officer of Health - Dr.W.S.O'Loughlin, M.D., M.R.C.O.G.
 Chief Sanitary Inspector - Mr S.M.Perriam, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
 Asst. " " Mr D.Heard (On Army Service).
 Temporary Asst. " Mr W.Noye.

Hospital and Nursing Arrangements.

There is no change in the Hospital or Clinic Services in the District. These and the Laboratory facilities are satisfactory.

Committees at Crediton and Bow have each purchased a motor Ambulance. These are proving most useful and have greatly improved the facilities in the District.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA.WATER.

The water supplies in this District are very inadequate during the summer months. Sufficient underground supplies do not appear to be available within the District. A Regional Water Scheme to bring water from a source such as Dartmoor is required.

Small schemes were in progress to supply the villages of Cheriton Cross and Down St.Mary when the War started. These schemes are still uncompleted and it is doubtful whether the yield from the boreholes will be sufficient to meet the ultimate needs of these villages.

DRAINAGE.

No new drainage works have been carried out.

HOUSING.

There has been no house building and only very slight repair work, owing to the scarcity of labour and materials. Very few essential repairs are being carried out, resulting in a progressive deterioration of buildings.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Premises used for the production of food have been inspected and action taken where necessary.

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.Table of Notifiable Diseases occurring during the year.

	Cases Notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	13	11	0
Diphtheria	2	2	0
Enteric Fever	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	1	0
Erysipelas	1	1	0

SCARLET FEVER.

Thirteen cases were notified. All recovered. They call for no comment.

DIPHTHERIA.

Two cases were notified during the year. They were removed to Hospital and both recovered.

The immunisation of children in the District has been carried out on a systematic basis in co-operation with the General Practitioners. The response by parents has been very satisfactory, nearly 2,000 children of school age having been immunised, and I am pleased to state there was no serious reaction in any child.

TUBERCULOSIS.

As far as can be ascertained there was no increase in the number of T.B. cases.

SCABIES

This disease has given a certain amount of trouble, but the number of cases were few in comparison with the serious epidemics reported elsewhere. The number of cases increased with the arrival of the evacuees. Treatment was given either at home or in the various Hospitals with satisfactory results.

VENEREAL DISEASE.

No cases came to my notice.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd) W.S.O'LOUGHLIN

Medical Officer of Health.

